

# LOUISIANA POSITIVES

<http://www.gov.state.la.us> & <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov> & <http://led.state.la.us>

Updated August 16, 2005

- ✓ New Orleans made the list of America's **Top 5** Restaurant Cities (Bon Appetit, September 2005). <http://www.epicurious.com/bonappetit/toc/toc>
- ✓ Calcasieu Parish ranks **No. 3** in the 2005 ranking of Top 20 Project Active Counties in the country with 70 projects. St. Charles Parish came in at **No. 20** with 25 projects (Industrial Info Online, July 2005).  
<http://www.industrialinfo.com/media/downloadMedia.jsp?mediaId=100430>
- ✓ Baton Rouge's Stonehenge Capital Company makes this year's list of Top 100 Venture Capital Firms (Entrepreneur Magazine, July 2005).  
<http://www.entrepreneur.com/listings/vc100/deals/1,5956,,00.html>
- ✓ Slidell's own Louisiana Lumber ranks **15<sup>th</sup>** in the 2005 Hot 100 list of the fastest-growing new businesses in America (Entrepreneur Magazine, July 2005).  
<http://entrepreneur.com/hot100/listings/0,6868,296117-2005-0,00.html>
- ✓ New Orleans made an annual ranking of America's Favorite Cities in several categories. The Crescent City came in at **No. 4** for romance, **No. 6** for ease in getting around, **No. 7** in overall activities, **No. 9** for sightseeing, **No. 15** for its people, **No. 16** for holiday trips, **No. 21** for quality of life, and **No. 25** for family trips (Travel & Leisure, August 2005).  
<http://www.travelandleisure.com/afc/results.cfm#>
- ✓ New Orleans is among the latest list of **Top Logistic Metros** in the Southeast (Expansion Management, June 2005).  
[http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/DocReserve/DocReserve\\_Content/Top%20Log%20Metros%20in%20the%20Southeast.pdf](http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/DocReserve/DocReserve_Content/Top%20Log%20Metros%20in%20the%20Southeast.pdf)
- ✓ The New Orleans area has the nation's **sharpest increase in per capita income growth** since 2000 according to a new study of federal data. Personal income in New Orleans climbed 4.59 percent each year between 2000 and 2003. Shreveport ranked **2<sup>nd</sup>** and Baton Rouge came in at **No. 29**, all above the national average (American City Business Journals, June 2005). [http://www.bizjournals.com/edit\\_special/17.html](http://www.bizjournals.com/edit_special/17.html)
- ✓ Baton Rouge jumped from No. 86 to **No. 19** in the annual Most Unwired Cities Survey. New Orleans climbed from No. 69 in 2004 to **No. 38**. The rankings are based on the number of commercial and public or "free" wireless Internet access points (hotspots), airports with wireless Internet access, and broadband availability. The survey also included community wireless Internet access points, local wireless networks and wireless e-mail devices (Intel Corporation, June 2005).  
<http://www.intel.com/personal/wireless/unwiredcities/index.htm>

- ✓ The Pointe Coupee Community Enrichment Fund was recently honored with one of five National Leadership In Action Awards. The Fund was honored for their work in promoting philanthropy and their efforts to bridge the gaps of race and class in their rural community (W.K. Kellogg Foundation, May 2005).  
[http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/PhilVol/General\\_00251\\_03788.pdf](http://www.wkkf.org/Pubs/PhilVol/General_00251_03788.pdf)
- ✓ LSU's Business & Technology Center received the Randall M. Whaley Incubator of the Year Award, the highest award for incubator excellence (National Business Incubation Association, May 2005). [http://www.nbia.org/awards\\_showcase/2005/incubator.php](http://www.nbia.org/awards_showcase/2005/incubator.php)
- ✓ The Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce made the list of **Top 10** Economic Development Groups of 2004 (Site Selection Magazine, May 2005).  
<http://siteselection.com/>
- ✓ Lafayette jumped from 126<sup>th</sup> to **68<sup>th</sup> in the country** in this year's list of Best Places for Doing Business in America. Lafayette showed the highest growth in Louisiana for information technology jobs with an increase of 21.5% in the last three years (Inc. Magazine, May 2005). <http://www.inc.com/magazine/20050501/bestcities.html>
- ✓ New Orleans ranks as the **No. 1 art destination** for mid-sized cities (American Style Magazine, April 2005).  
[http://www.americanstyle.com/Magazine/AS43/Arts\\_Travel/Top25/Top25ArtCities.cfm](http://www.americanstyle.com/Magazine/AS43/Arts_Travel/Top25/Top25ArtCities.cfm)
- ✓ Louisiana is **No. 3** and New Orleans comes in at **No. 8** on the latest list of the Ten Comeback Kids for developing industry (Southern Business & Development, April 2005). <http://www.sb-d.com/issues/winter2005/features/TenComebackKids.asp>
- ✓ Louisiana Department of Revenue has won the 2005 FTA Award for Technology Applications in State Tax Administration for its multi-year effort to modernize and integrate revenue operations (Federation of Tax Administrators, April 2005).  
<http://www.taxadmin.org>
- ✓ Louisiana's college savings plan – the State Tuition Assistance and Revenue Trust (START) Program – ranks as **one of the best 529 plans in the nation**. START received five stars – the highest ranking available, making Louisiana **one of only six states** to receive the highest accolade (InvestforCollege.com, March 2005).  
<http://www.investforcollege.com/ShowPlan.asp?page=2&ssort=1>
- ✓ Two Louisiana firms made the list of 2004 biggest capital investments: Cheniere Energy in Cameron came in at **No. 5**, and General Motors in Shreveport ranks **14<sup>th</sup>** (Site Selection Magazine, March 2005).  
[http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2005/mar/p150/ss2004\\_03p152.pdf](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2005/mar/p150/ss2004_03p152.pdf)
- ✓ The Union Tank Car project ranks **No. 13** in the nation for biggest project based on square footage and U.S. Support Company in Shreveport ranks **No. 11** for most employee

increase (Site Selection Magazine, March 2005).

[http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2005/mar/p150/ss2004\\_03p152.pdf](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2005/mar/p150/ss2004_03p152.pdf)

- ✓ Natchitoches is the first Louisiana city to make the list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations (National Trust for Historic Preservation, March 2005).  
[http://www.nationaltrust.org/dozen\\_distinctive\\_destinations/2005/index.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/dozen_distinctive_destinations/2005/index.html)
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **1st** in the southwest market region in terms of capital and maintenance spending among paper and wood companies, with 14 projects worth \$435 million (Industrialinfo.com, February 2005).  
<http://www.industrialinfo.com/showNews.jsp?newsitemID=56510>
- ✓ Louisiana's Small Business Administration office ranks **10<sup>th</sup>** in the country for loan production and services, climbing from near the bottom of the annual rankings just a year ago (U.S. Small Business Administration, February 2005). <http://www.sba.gov/la/05-01-louisiana-ranks-10th.html>
- ✓ Baton Rouge ranks as the **25<sup>th</sup>** "Smartest Cities" out of the 101 largest U.S. cities (Men's Health Magazine, February 2005). <http://www.menshealth.com/cda/home/0,,s1-0-0-0-0,00.html>
- ✓ New Orleans is the **fourth best** place in the nation to make a movie (Moviemaker Magazine, Winter 2005). <http://www.moviemaker.com/>
- ✓ Louisiana's teacher quality improvement efforts **lead the nation**. The state's efforts to improve school and student performance rank **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation. (Education Week, January 2005). <http://www.edweek.com/ew/index.html>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **8<sup>th</sup>** in the country in number of teachers receiving National Board Certification last year, up from 12<sup>th</sup> in 2003. (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, December 2004). [http://www.nbpts.org/nbct/nbctdir\\_bystate.cfm](http://www.nbpts.org/nbct/nbctdir_bystate.cfm)
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **No. 8** in the country in gross state product, ranked by percent change (Bureau of Economic Analysis, December 2004).  
<http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/newsrelarchive/2004/gsp1204.xls>
- ✓ **New Orleans** has been ranked 39<sup>th</sup> overall and **No. 1 in Waterborne Commerce**, and **Baton Rouge** was named 82<sup>nd</sup> overall and **No. 10 in Waterborne Commerce** in the latest list of America's 100 Most Logistics Friendly Metros (Expansion Management, November 2004).  
[http://expansionmanagement.com/smo/DocReserve/DocReserve\\_Content/Top%20100\(1\).pdf](http://expansionmanagement.com/smo/DocReserve/DocReserve_Content/Top%20100(1).pdf)
- ✓ **Houma** climbed to **No. 14** in the list of Best Performing Cities – 118 Small Metros. Shreveport climbed from No. 176 to No. 150 on the list of Best Performing Cities – 200

Largest Metros (Milken Institute, November 2004).

<http://bestcities.milkeninstitute.org/bc118.html>

- ✓ Louisiana leapt from 12<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in its national ranking for number of nationally certified teachers this year (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, December 2004).  
[http://www.nbpts.org/nbct/nbctdir\\_bystate.cfm](http://www.nbpts.org/nbct/nbctdir_bystate.cfm)
- ✓ The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the State of Louisiana for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). This was the third consecutive year that Louisiana has earned the award (Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada {GFOA}, November 2004).  
<http://www.gfoa.org./services/awards.shtml>
- ✓ With a 5% increase, Louisiana ranks 6<sup>th</sup> on the national list of states with the biggest increase of non-employer small businesses (U.S. Census Bureau, November 2004).  
<http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2004/cb04-228table.pdf>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in what it spends on pre-k education and 12<sup>th</sup> in students' accessibility to early childhood programs. Louisiana also received high marks for the quality of its public pre-k programs (The National Institute for Early Education Research, November 2004). <http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf#page=100>
- ✓ Louisiana once again came in near the top for giving, ranking **No. 4** on the 2004 Generosity Index (Catalogue for Philanthropy, November 2004).  
<http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/cfp/db/generosity.php?year=2004>
- ✓ New Orleans came in it at **No. 4 for lowest rents** – Central Business District Office, and **No. 20 overall** in the rankings of the Top 40 Real Estate Markets (Expansion Management, October 2004).  
<http://www.expansionmanagement.com/smo/newsviewer/default.asp?cmd=articledetail&articleid=16135&st=3>
- ✓ Amedisys of Baton Rouge ranks **No. 4** on Forbes' list of 200 Best Small Companies (Forbes.com, October 2004).  
<http://forbes.com/lists/results.jhtml?passListId=23&passYear=2004&passListType=Company&searchParameter1=unset&searchParameter2=unset&resultsStart=1&resultsHowMany=25&resultsSortProperties=%2Bnumberfield1%2C%2Bstringfield2&resultsSortCategoryName=Overall+Rank&passKeyword=&category1=category&category2=category>
- ✓ Louisiana State University is the 3<sup>rd</sup> best campus for entrepreneurs in the latest ranking of America's Most Entrepreneurial Campuses (Forbes.com, October 2004).  
<http://www.forbes.com/entrepreneur>
- ✓ New Orleans ranks **No. 4** of the nation's best municipal Internet portals ([www.cityofno.com](http://www.cityofno.com)) (Center for Digital Government, October 2004).  
<http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/bestof/?loc=29>

- ✓ Lafayette is one of the **top cities** for high-tech businesses (Entrepreneur, October 2004). <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/0,4621,317132,00.html>
- ✓ Alexandria's Union Tank Car project ranks **No. 4** of the Top 25 U.S. Business Projects (Bizsites, September 2004). <http://www.bizsites.com/2004/september/article.asp?id=711>
- ✓ Louisiana's Legislature ranks **No. 3** in the country of the most technology-advanced legislatures (Center for Digital Government, June 2004). <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/highlightstory.php?docid=90659>
- ✓ Shreveport's U.S. Support is **No. 2** in The American South's 10-Largest New And Expanded Manufacturing And Selected Non-Manufacturing Announcements (Southern Business & Development, Spring 2004). <http://www.sb-d.com/issues/spring2004/topdeals/index.asp>
- ✓ Hackberry's Cameron LNG facility is **No. 6** on the 2004 list of Top 100 investments in the south. New Sarpy's Valero Refining is **No. 11** and Garyville's Marathon Ashland Petro is **No. 17**. Several other Louisiana companies' expansions also made the list. (Southern Business & Development, Spring 2004). <http://www.sb-d.com/issues/spring2004/features/SBDInvestment100.asp>
- ✓ Louisiana received special recognition for the 2004 SB&D listing of Top 100 Deals & Hot Markets for turning 11 big job deals in 2003 (Southern Business & Development, Spring 2004). <http://www.sb-d.com/issues/spring2004/features/SBD100TopDeals.asp> <http://www.sb-d.com/issues/spring2004/features/SBD100StateSummary.asp>
- ✓ Louisiana leaped from 47<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> in the nation in total capital investment growth between 2001 and 2002. Louisiana came in 6<sup>th</sup> in the number of business incubators per capita started in 2002. The state also climbed from 34<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> in average yearly growth of high-tech industries, and rose to 9<sup>th</sup> from 16<sup>th</sup> in high-tech companies that outpace U.S. growth. And, LA climbed from 15<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> in state spending on student aid (Milken Institute, March 2004). [http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/state\\_tech\\_sci\\_index04.pdf](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/state_tech_sci_index04.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana's growth rate of 1.4% came in at **No. 7** in the list of Top U.S. Growth States with more than 20,000 families moving. Baton Rouge ranks 19<sup>th</sup> in the list of Top U.S. Growth Cities with 5,000 – 10,000 families moving with a 6.6% growth rate (U-Haul, March 2004). [http://www.uhaul.com/pr/press\\_releases.html](http://www.uhaul.com/pr/press_releases.html)
- ✓ Louisiana's Legislators came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country in percentage of legislators participating in "Back to School Week" with 67%. The annual program put legislators in the classroom to share ideas, answer questions and help students understand the legislative process (National Council of State Legislators, January 2004). [http://www.ncsl.org/programs/pubs/04SLJan\\_LegTeachLearn.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/programs/pubs/04SLJan_LegTeachLearn.pdf)

- ✓ The New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner region ranks **6<sup>th</sup>** in the list of Top 10 Metro's by investment for 2003 (Site Selection Magazine, March 2004).  
<http://www.siteselection.com/>
- ✓ Two Louisiana companies made the list of 2003's Biggest Capital Investments. Cameron Liquefied Natural Gas LLC of Hackberry came in at **No. 11** and Valero Refining-New Orleans, LLC of New Sarpy ranks **18<sup>th</sup>** (Site Selection Magazine, March 2004).  
[http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2004/mar/p172/ss2004\\_03p176.pdf](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2004/mar/p172/ss2004_03p176.pdf)
- ✓ Three Louisiana cities made the latest list of Top 25 Cities in America for Doing Business. New Orleans came in at **No. 18** in the Large Metro Areas, Baton Rouge ranks **19<sup>th</sup>** for Medium Metro Areas, and Lake Charles made the list of Small Metro Areas at **No. 22** (Inc. Magazine, March 2004).  
<http://www.inc.com/magazine/20040301/top25.html>
- ✓ Baton Rouge ranks **No. 1** and New Orleans ranks **No. 7** for least expensive day-care costs (Runzheimer International, February 2004).  
<http://www.runzheimer.com/corpc/news/scripts/012004.asp>
- ✓ Lafayette ranks **6<sup>th</sup>** in the latest list of Best Mid-Sized Cities for Entrepreneurs. Not far behind is Baton Rouge at **No. 11** and Shreveport/Bossier City made the list at **No. 21**. New Orleans came in at **No. 10** for Large Cities in the South (Entrepreneur.com, January 2004). <http://www.entrepreneur.com/bestcities/region/0,5276,498-S-Mid,00.html>
- ✓ Louisiana topped the charts in another recent education study. Louisiana ranked **1<sup>st</sup>** in Accountability and Standards, **5<sup>th</sup>** in Improving Teacher Quality, and **16<sup>th</sup>** in Equity of Funding (Education Week, January 2004).  
<http://www.edweek.org/sreports/qc04/article.cfm?slug=17exec.h23>
- ✓ Louisiana is **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the South in increasing teacher pay since 1997 (Southern Regional Education Board, November 2003).  
[http://www.sreb.org/scripts/Focus/Reports/Teacher\\_Salaries\\_9\\_2003.pdf](http://www.sreb.org/scripts/Focus/Reports/Teacher_Salaries_9_2003.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana ranked **7<sup>th</sup>** in the 2003 Generosity Index. The index is compiled from 2001 tax return data, comparing how much residents have to how much they give. Louisiana ranked 44<sup>th</sup> on the "have scale" and 12<sup>th</sup> on the "giving scale" (Catalogue for Philanthropy, November 2003).  
<http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/cfp/db/generosity.php?year=2003>
- ✓ Three Louisiana cities made the list of Top Midsize Cities for Entrepreneurs in the South for 2003. Lafayette headlined the group at **No. 6**, Baton Rouge came in at **No. 11**, and Shreveport/Bossier City at **No. 21**. (Entrepreneur.com, November 2003).  
<http://www.entrepreneur.com/bestcities/region/0,5276,498-S-Mid,00.html>
- ✓ New Orleans was ranked **No. 10** in the Top Large Cities for Entrepreneurs in the South for 2003. The Crescent City came in at **No. 32** overall (Entrepreneur.com, November 2003). <http://www.entrepreneur.com/bestcities/region/0,5276,498-S-Large,00.html>

- ✓ Louisiana climbed to **No. 17** in Site Selection magazine's 2003 Business Climate Report rankings. Louisiana ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the 2002 ranking (Site Selection, November 2003). <http://www.siteselection.com>
- ✓ Several Louisiana cities were named in Outlook Magazine's 2003 Annual Quality of Life rankings. Named among the Best Housing: **Baton Rouge – No. 5, Lafayette – No. 6, Houma – No. 8, Monroe – No. 9, Lake Charles – No. 19, and New Orleans – No. 24** (Outlook Magazine, October 2003). <http://www.bdomag.com/>
- ✓ Louisiana has the **3rd** most digitally advanced legislature in the country (Center for Digital Government, October 2003). <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/highlightstory.phtml?docid=73192>
- ✓ Louisiana Film Commission nabbed **2nd place** in the latest Best Government Agency Website ranking (Center for Digital Government, October 2003). <http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/highlightstory.phtml?docid=71844>
- ✓ Eighty-two percent of Louisiana legislators (118 members) participated in the National Council of State Legislators' Back to School Week last year, **2<sup>nd</sup> in the country** (National Council of State Legislators, September 2003). [http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/03slmar\\_statestats.pdf](http://www.ncsl.org/public/trust/03slmar_statestats.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana State University earns recognition as the "**Most Diverse University**," and largest producer of African American chemistry Ph.D's in the Kaplan/Newsweek Hot Colleges List (Newsweek, September 2003). <http://www.msnbc.com/news/955658.asp>
- ✓ Houma came in at **No. 16** in the list of Top 100 Best Performing Cities. The ranking is based on economic performance and job creation. On the Smallest Metro Area list, Monroe held at **No. 22**, while Alexandria came in at **No. 46** (Milken Institute, June 2003). <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/research/research.taf?cat=indexes&function=detail&ID=24&type=BPC>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **No. 4** in Bloomberg's annual rating of the "wealth-friendly" states. The rankings are compiled by comparing taxes across the nation, including levies on salaries, real estate and personal property (Bloomberg Wealth Manager Magazine, June 2003). <http://wealth.bloomberg.com/wealth/0603/jun.ft.states.pdf>
- ✓ New Orleans has been named the **23<sup>rd</sup>** Best City for Singles (Forbes Magazine, June 2003). <http://www.forbes.com/2003/06/04/singleland.html>
- ✓ Mobility Depot, L.L.C of Baton Rouge has been named one of America's Top 100 **fastest-growing businesses** (Entrepreneur, June 2003). <http://www.entrepreneur.com/hot100/0,6524,,00.html>



- ✓ The Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce has been named one of the nation's **Top 10** Local Economic Development Groups (Site Selection Magazine, May 2003). <http://www.siteselection.com/>
- ✓ Three Louisiana cities rank in the Top 25 as places with the lowest costs of doing business: Lafayette (**No. 6**), Shreveport (**No. 7**), and Baton Rouge (**No. 25**) (Forbes Magazine, May 2003). <http://www.forbes.com/2003/05/07/bestland.html>
- ✓ The Louisiana National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, a 17-month program targeting high school dropouts, was selected for the third time as the **Best Overall Program** in the nation. This award is presented by the United Services Organization (USO) at an event each year in Washington, D.C. (National Guard Bureau, May 2003). <http://www.daremightythings.com>
- ✓ Louisiana's school accountability program ranked in the Top 10 in the nation for the second year in a row, based on the overall character and effectiveness of the accountability system. The state climbed to **6<sup>th</sup>**, up from last year's ranking at No. 7 (Princeton Review, May 2003). <http://www.princetonreview.com/footer/testingTesters.asp>
- ✓ LSU's School of Business ranked among the Top 12 in the nation (Entrepreneur Magazine, April 2003) <http://entrepreneur.com/topcolleges/results/1,6454,,00.html?mode=type&list=NT&tier=1>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **6<sup>th</sup>** in Business Incubators per 10,000 businesses and **14<sup>th</sup>** in Science & Engineering Bachelor of Science degrees granted as a percentage of total Bachelor's degrees granted (State Science & Technology Indicators, April 2003). <http://www.ta.doc.gov/reports.htm>
- ✓ Louisiana ranked **11<sup>th</sup>** in the country in manufacturing expansions over the last two years (2000-02), **14<sup>th</sup>** in overall corporate facilities and expansions over the last two years, and **17<sup>th</sup>** for the number of overall corporate facilities and expansions during 2002 (Site Selection Magazine, March 2003). <http://www.siteselection.com/>
- ✓ Louisiana's percentage of uninsured children dropped from 20 percent to 14 percent over the last two years – the **greatest improvement** among all 50 states (Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, March 2003). <http://www.kff.org/content/2003/4070/>
- ✓ Deridder and Plaquemine have been named among the **Top 10** (7<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, respectively) U.S. Small Towns for New and Expanded Facilities over the last two years. New Iberia ranked in the top 20, coming in 17th (Site Selection Magazine, March 2003). <http://www.siteselection.com/>
- ✓ Lake Charles' Citgo Petroleum Corp. has been recognized for making the **6<sup>th</sup> largest** capital investment in the country last year (Site Selection Magazine, March 2003). <http://www.siteselection.com>



- ✓ New Orleans was named the **3<sup>rd</sup>** best restaurant town in America (Bon Appetit, March 2003).  
<http://eat.epicurious.com/bonappetit/feature/index.ssf?/bonappetit/feature/survey2003.html>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **10<sup>th</sup>** in imposing the lowest total tax burden (federal, state, and local taxes included) (Tax Foundation, February 2003). <http://taxfoundation.org/press-bestworststates.html>
- ✓ Higher education in Louisiana continues to be among the **most affordable**. While the national average increase of college tuition over the past two years was nine percent, Louisiana tuition increased just four percent at its four-year colleges (**6<sup>th</sup> lowest**). The study also noted that total state appropriations for higher education in Louisiana increased six percent, ranking it **5<sup>th</sup>** (National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Winter 2003).  
[http://www.highereducation.org/reports/affordability\\_supplement/affordability\\_supplement.pdf](http://www.highereducation.org/reports/affordability_supplement/affordability_supplement.pdf)
- ✓ New Orleans ranks **10<sup>th</sup>** best for limiting sprawl in a metropolitan area (Smart Growth America, January 2003).  
<http://www.smartgrowthamerica.com/sprawlinindex/sprawlinindex.html>
- ✓ Louisiana ranks **5<sup>th</sup>** in the latest Generosity Index, despite ranking 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation in earnings, according to IRS data. The Generosity Index notes that Louisiana residents gave more than \$1.2 billion in donations in 2002 (Ellis L. Phillips Foundation, January 2003). <http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/cfp/db/generosity.php>
- ✓ Growth in spending and Louisiana's willingness to make funding for higher education a priority has once again been recognized. Louisiana is **2<sup>nd</sup>** in the nation in percentage increase over the last two years in funding for postsecondary education, **6<sup>th</sup>** over the past five years, and **6<sup>th</sup>** over the past 10 years. For the current fiscal year, Louisiana was ranked **8<sup>th</sup>** for its effort to increase higher education – while at the same time the state ranked 41<sup>st</sup> for its capacity to fund the increase (Grapevine Center for Higher Education & Educational Finance, January 2003). <http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/grapevine/Tables.htm>
- ✓ Louisiana is the **top state in the South in electoral practices**, receiving an overall “B” average. Southern Exposure magazine, a publication of the Institute for Southern Studies, evaluated 13 southern states for its survey. Louisiana was the only state to receive a “B” overall and also received an “A” in the categories of registration system – detailing the state's computerized list and election updates – and in the category of uncounted votes with a 0.6% record on a national average of 2.0% (Southern Exposure, December 2002).  
<http://www.southernstudies.org/se/stateofvoting.pdf>
- ✓ Again Louisiana has ranked among the top states in the country for its efforts to improve school and student performance. Quality Counts 2003 ranks Louisiana **5<sup>th</sup>** for

accountability and standards efforts, **12<sup>th</sup>** for its efforts to improve teacher quality and **12<sup>th</sup>** for equitable distribution of resources (Education Week, January 2003).  
[www.edweek.com/sreports/qc03/](http://www.edweek.com/sreports/qc03/)

- ✓ According to the report, “Economic Importance of Hunting in America,” Louisiana is ranked **No. 10** in hunting-related retail sales for 2001 (International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, December 2002). [www.iafwa.org/page2.htm](http://www.iafwa.org/page2.htm)
- ✓ Louisiana came in as the **8<sup>th</sup>** most improved state over the last decade in the United Way’s “State of Caring” Index. The index measures the health and well-being of the country, analyzing 35 leading social, economic and environmental indicators (United Way, November 2002). [http://national.unitedway.org/files/pdf/soc/2002/top\\_10\\_02.pdf](http://national.unitedway.org/files/pdf/soc/2002/top_10_02.pdf)
- ✓ Monroe-based CenturyTel recently earned the rank of the **No. 1** U.S.-based telecommunications company. The ranking also earned CenturyTel **No. 16** among information technology companies in the world and **No. 7** among the world’s telecommunications companies. The rankings are based on Standard & Poor’s IT Scorecard (Business Week magazine, December 2002).  
<http://bwnt.businessweek.com/it100/index.asp?sector=Telecommunications>
- ✓ According to data released by the Bureau of Census in the Annual Survey of Manufacturers, Louisiana manufacturing workers are **1<sup>st</sup> in productivity** measured by value of shipments per production worker, and are **4<sup>th</sup> most productive** in the United States in value added per production worker (Bureau of Census, November 2002).  
[www.census.gov/econ/www/ma0300.html](http://www.census.gov/econ/www/ma0300.html)
- ✓ Louisiana residents ranked **5<sup>th</sup> in the country** in percentage of earnings given to charity (Catalogue for Philanthropy, November 2002).  
[www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/print/cfp/db/generosity.php?print=1](http://www.catalogueforphilanthropy.org/print/cfp/db/generosity.php?print=1)
- ✓ In harvested acres, Louisiana is ranked nationally: **No. 1** in sugarcane, **No. 2** in sweet potatoes and all rice, and **No. 7** in upland cotton and sorghum for grain. In crop production, Louisiana is ranked nationally: **No. 2** in sweet potatoes and sugarcane, **No. 3** in all rice, **No. 5** in sorghum for grain, and **No. 7** in upland cotton (2001 Louisiana Agricultural Statistics, October 2002). [www.nass.usda.gov/la](http://www.nass.usda.gov/la)
- ✓ Louisiana is ranked **3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation** in percentage of income growth over the last two years. The average Louisianian’s income has grown 9.44% since 2000 (Bureau of Economic Analysis, October 2002). [www.bea.doc.gov/](http://www.bea.doc.gov/)
- ✓ Inc. Magazine ranked Turner Professional Services of Baton Rouge **No. 4** on its annual list of Top 500 list of fastest-growing privately held companies in the country (Inc. Magazine, October 2002). [www.inc.com/inc500/](http://www.inc.com/inc500/)
- ✓ The 1088<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, headquartered in Plaquemine, was awarded the General Walter T. Kerwin Jr. Readiness Award as the **best battalion sized unit** in the entire

National Guard. This is the second year in a row that the 1088<sup>th</sup> has received the prestigious award (Association of the United States Army, October 2002).  
[www.ausa.org/am2002.nsf/\(AwardsListing\)/106BDDFA24621B7985256C36004F157E?OpenDocument](http://www.ausa.org/am2002.nsf/(AwardsListing)/106BDDFA24621B7985256C36004F157E?OpenDocument)

- ✓ Louisiana Business & Technology Center recently received the 2002 Federal and State Technology Partnership (FAST) award thanks to the Small Business Innovation Research program for its work in technology transfer from university research to technology-based small business concerns (Small Business Administration, October 2002).  
[www.sba.gov/sbir/FAST/2002fastawards.pdf](http://www.sba.gov/sbir/FAST/2002fastawards.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana's START Program jumped to the **head of its class** in the latest 529 Plan Report, earning the highest rate of return of states during the first half of 2002 with an annualized rate of 6.12 percent (The 529 Plan Report, October 2002).  
[www.savingforcollege.com](http://www.savingforcollege.com)
- ✓ Louisiana's LA 4 early childhood education program has been highlighted by the National Association of State Boards of Education as a **model initiative** (NASBE, September 2002). [www.nasbe.org/](http://www.nasbe.org/)
- ✓ The Center for Public Integrity ranked Louisiana **15<sup>th</sup>** for its political parties' financial disclosure system. Openness, accountability and public access were the primary focus of the nationwide study (The Center for Public Integrity, October 2002).  
[www.publicintegrity.org/dtaweb/drsearch.asp?L1=20&L2=9&L3=25&L4=10&L5=0&Display=DRNationwideNumbers](http://www.publicintegrity.org/dtaweb/drsearch.asp?L1=20&L2=9&L3=25&L4=10&L5=0&Display=DRNationwideNumbers)
- ✓ Southern Business and Development magazine named Shreveport to the **No. 10** spot on its list of Top 10 Southern Mid-Markets in the Last 10 Years (Southern Business and Development magazine, Summer 2002). The magazine also named Shreveport in its listing of The South's Best Automotive Supplier Locations.  
[www.sb-d.com/issues/summer2002/topdeals/top10midmarkets.asp](http://www.sb-d.com/issues/summer2002/topdeals/top10midmarkets.asp)
- ✓ The Shaw Group of Baton Rouge has been named the **22<sup>nd</sup> fastest-growing** public company in the country (Fortune magazine, September 2002).  
[www.fortune.com/lists/fastest/index.html](http://www.fortune.com/lists/fastest/index.html)
- ✓ Louisiana **led the nation** last year in the percentage of African-American visitors last year with 13.4 percent (Travel Industry Association of America, September 2002).  
[www.tia.org/home.asp](http://www.tia.org/home.asp)
- ✓ The Center for Digital Government ranked Louisiana **2<sup>nd</sup>** in Digital Democracy, based on access to laws, candidate information and electronic voting technologies, in its 2002 Digital State Survey. Louisiana also climbed from 25<sup>th</sup> to **17<sup>th</sup>** for E-commerce and Business Regulation, which evaluates the availability of business information, the ability to conduct business online, and the status of portals and e-procurement systems (The

Center for Digital Government, August 2002).  
[www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/02top25states-pt2.phtml](http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/02top25states-pt2.phtml)

- ✓ Louisiana climbed to **No. 18** in the Small Business Survival Index, which rates the policy climate for small business in each state by calculating government costs to business (Small Business Survival Committee, July 2002).  
[www.sbssc.org/Media/pdf/SBSI2002A.pdf](http://www.sbssc.org/Media/pdf/SBSI2002A.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana's START program is in the **Top 5** in 529 investment plans in the country, after netting 6.33 percent interest last year (Saving for College, July 2002).  
[www.savingforcollege.com/compare/investment\\_results.php](http://www.savingforcollege.com/compare/investment_results.php)
- ✓ Seven Louisiana businesses made the **BE 100** – which annual ranks the nation's largest black-owned businesses (Black Enterprise Magazine, July 2002).
  - Winnfield Life Insurance Co. – Natchitoches
  - Williams-Progressive Life & Accident Insurance Co. – Opelousas
  - Reliable Life Insurance Co. – Monroe
  - Aeneas Williams Dealership – Monroe
  - Lundy Enterprises L.L.C. – New Orleans
  - Liberty Bank & Trust Company – New Orleans
  - Dryades Savings Bank, F.S.B. – New Orleans[www.blackenterprise.com/PageOpen.asp?Source=BE100Tab/BE100home.htm](http://www.blackenterprise.com/PageOpen.asp?Source=BE100Tab/BE100home.htm)
- ✓ Louisiana ranked **19<sup>th</sup>** in the country in terms of high-tech job growth for 2001. The state's three-percent growth was higher than the national growth rate of just one percent (American Electronics Association, July 2002).  
[www.aeanet.org/PressRoom/idmk\\_cs2002\\_Louisiana.asp](http://www.aeanet.org/PressRoom/idmk_cs2002_Louisiana.asp)
- ✓ **Three out of the four** 2001 SAFE award winners were to companies whose offshore divisions are run out of Louisiana. The best in the oil and natural gas industry are annually recognized for safe operations, environmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility. The Louisiana operations sited were: Danos & Curole Marine Contractors, Inc. – Larose; Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. – New Orleans; & Exxon Mobil Corporation – New Orleans (Minerals Management Services, July 2002).  
[www.mms.gov/awards/allSAFEwinners.htm](http://www.mms.gov/awards/allSAFEwinners.htm)
- ✓ Louisiana ranked in the Top 10 in the nation (**7<sup>th</sup>**) in The Princeton Review's first Annual Ranking of State Accountability Systems. The ranking is based on the state's complete accountability system, including academic alignment, test quality, openness to public scrutiny and education policy goals of the state (The Princeton Review, June 2002).  
[www.review.com/stateStudymsg.cfm](http://www.review.com/stateStudymsg.cfm)
- ✓ Plaquemine was named the **Hottest** Small Market of the Year by Southern Business & Development, based on its outstanding achievements in economic development (Southern Business & Development, June 2002). [www.sb-d.com](http://www.sb-d.com)

- ✓ Louisiana ranked **5<sup>th</sup>** in the percentage of manufacturing establishments with Internet Access in the Progressive Policy Institute's 2002 New Economy Index (Public Policy Institute, June 2002). [www.neweconomyindex.org/states/2002/louisiana.html](http://www.neweconomyindex.org/states/2002/louisiana.html)
- ✓ All seven of Louisiana's metropolitan areas made it onto the Forbes/Milken Institute list of Best Places for Business and Careers. In the large metro category, Houma came in at **No. 33**, Lafayette **No. 70**, Baton Rouge **No. 110**, Shreveport-Bossier City **No. 165**, and New Orleans **No. 168**. In the small metro category, Monroe was ranked **No. 22** and Alexandria **No. 66**. The rankings are based on government data for employment and wage growth, job momentum, and critical shifts within the vast technology sector, weighing gross tech output, technology as a percentage of the total metro economy and the diversity within tech industries (Forbes Magazine, May 2002). [www.forbes.com/2002/05/09/bestplaces.html](http://www.forbes.com/2002/05/09/bestplaces.html)
- ✓ Louisiana remains in the **top 10** in the prestigious Bloomberg annual tax survey, which cites assessment differences from state to state and then ranks them for their tax friendliness (Bloomberg Personal Finance, May 2002). [www.bloomberg.com/personal/archives/may\\_2002.html](http://www.bloomberg.com/personal/archives/may_2002.html)
  - A for tax friendliness to retirees (4<sup>th</sup> nationally)
  - B+ for tax friendliness to families (9<sup>th</sup> nationally)
- ✓ Louisiana has two cities ranked as among the nation's **top 20 Wealth Builders** – areas that despite population growth below the median, had real per-capita income growth above the median – New Orleans is ranked **4<sup>th</sup>** and Baton Rouge ranked **19<sup>th</sup>** (The Brookings Institution Center on Urban and Metropolitan Policy, February 2002). [www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/es/urban/publications/gottliebexsum.htm](http://www.brook.edu/dybdocroot/es/urban/publications/gottliebexsum.htm)
- ✓ Two Louisiana companies, SCP Pool Corp of Covington and Orthodontic Centers of America of Metairie, were ranked among Business Week's list of **hot growth companies** in the country. SCP Pool Corp at No. 26 and Orthodontic Centers of America at No. 62 (BusinessWeek, June 2002). [www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/02\\_23/b3786601.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/02_23/b3786601.htm)
- ✓ AmericanStyle magazine ranked New Orleans **11<sup>th</sup>** in their list of Top 25 art destinations (AmericanStyle, June 2002). [www.americanstyle.com/Travel/Top\\_25.html](http://www.americanstyle.com/Travel/Top_25.html)
- ✓ Amitech America Ltd. of Baton Rouge was named among the **Top 25** of new business projects based on new jobs (Plants Sites & Parks, May 2002). <http://www.bizsites.com/2002/may/article.asp?id=61>
- ✓ Forbes magazine ranked New Orleans **No. 18** in its annual list of Best Cities for Singles (Forbes, May 2002). [www.forbes.com/2001/05/10/singles.html](http://www.forbes.com/2001/05/10/singles.html)
- ✓ The U-Haul national migration trend report, reflecting the nation's top growth areas for families ranked Lafayette **38<sup>th</sup>** and Baton Rouge **50<sup>th</sup>** (U-Haul, May 2002). [www.uhaul.com/pr/pr2.html?pr\\_lancaster\\_growth](http://www.uhaul.com/pr/pr2.html?pr_lancaster_growth)

- ✓ Baton Rouge's Amitech America Ltd. Project ranked as one of the **Top 25 business projects** based on new jobs (Plants Sites & Parks magazine, May 2002).  
[www.bizsites.com/2002/may/article.asp?id=61](http://www.bizsites.com/2002/may/article.asp?id=61)
- ✓ Calcasieu Parish has been named one of the 50 hottest regions for business expansion and relocation – coming in at **44** (Expansion Management, January 2002).  
[www.ExpansionManagement.com](http://www.ExpansionManagement.com)
- ✓ Louisiana is ranked **4<sup>th</sup>-best** state for e-commerce based on how state laws, regulations, and administrative actions support Internet use by Louisiana citizens (Progressive Policy Institute, March 2002)  
[www.ppionline.org/ppi\\_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=107&subsecid=294&contentid=250162](http://www.ppionline.org/ppi_ci.cfm?knlgAreaID=107&subsecid=294&contentid=250162)
- ✓ DeRidder is among the **Top 20** Small Towns for Corporate Facilities, ranking 16<sup>th</sup> (Site Selection magazine, March 2002). [www.siteselection.com/issues/2002/mar/p170/](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2002/mar/p170/)
- ✓ Natchitoches has been named among the country's **top tax havens for retirees** (Where to Retire magazine, March 2002). <http://www.wheretoretire.com/>
- ✓ New Orleans has been named one of the Best Biotech Locations in the South (Southern Business and Development, April 2002).  
<http://www.sb-d.com/issues/winter2002/index.asp>
- ✓ Louisiana has been recognized as one of the **Top 10** states in the nation in overall education reform, **4<sup>th</sup>** in the nation in standards and accountability, and **16<sup>th</sup>** in improving teacher quality (Education Week, January 2002). <http://www.edweek.com/sreports/qc02/>
- ✓ Louisiana is ranked **3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation** in the percentage of accessibility to public and private institutions (Lumina Foundation, January 2002).  
<http://www.luminafoundation.org/monographs/states.shtml>
- ✓ Louisiana has climbed to **2<sup>nd</sup> in the nation** in percentage increase over the last year in funding for postsecondary education. Over the last five years, since Governor Foster has been in office, Louisiana has attained a ranking of fourth in the nation in percentage increase in postsecondary funding (Grapevine Center for Higher Education and Educational Finance, January 2002). <http://www.coe.ilstu.edu/grapevine/>
- ✓ The Louisiana National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program, a 17-month program targeting high school dropouts, has been selected as the **top ChalleNGe program** for Responsible Citizen and Leadership/Followership (National Guard Bureau, February 2002).  
[www.daremightythings.com](http://www.daremightythings.com)
- ✓ Louisiana was one of 18 states to be awarded Renewal Community designations and the **only state in the south** to earn four. As a result of the Renewal Community designations, approved by Congress and administered by HUD, Louisiana will receive regulatory relief



and tax breaks to help existing and new businesses provide more jobs and promote community revitalization. Louisiana businesses will be eligible to share in \$17 billion in tax incentives to stimulate job growth, promote economic development and create affordable housing. The Renewal Community designation tax incentives are good for 7 years (HUD, 2001). [www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/ezec/index.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/ezec/index.cfm)

- ✓ The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections has been recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections as **one of only three** in the country that has achieved full accreditation of its system. (ACA, November 2001)
- ✓ Louisiana is ranked **45<sup>th</sup>** in per capita taxation (U.S. Census Bureau, 2001). [www.census.gov/govs/statetax/00staxrank.html](http://www.census.gov/govs/statetax/00staxrank.html)
- ✓ Louisiana is among the **most improved** states in the Milken Institute's New Economy Index, leaping from 45<sup>th</sup> to 39<sup>th</sup> (Milken Institute, November 2001). [www.milkeninstitute.org/ecoindex/press.html](http://www.milkeninstitute.org/ecoindex/press.html)
- ✓ Louisiana has maintained its **B-** grade over the past three years in the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs annual ranking of state government performance. (Maxwell School, 2001). <http://governing.com/gpp/gp11a.htm>
- ✓ Louisiana is in the **top 10** in Most New and Expanded Corporate Facilities (9<sup>th</sup> nationally) and Capital Investment per million residents (3<sup>rd</sup>). (Site Selection magazine, March 2001). [www.siteselection.com/issues/2001/mar/p152/](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2001/mar/p152/)
- ✓ Baton Rouge is ranked **3<sup>rd</sup>**-best midsize city for entrepreneurs (Entrepreneur.com, January 2002). [www.entrepreneur.com/bestcities/](http://www.entrepreneur.com/bestcities/)
- ✓ Louisiana ranked in the top 20 (**19<sup>th</sup>**) for small-business friendly states. (Small business Survival Index, 2001). [www.bcentral.com/resource/articles/harper/115.asp?cobrand=msn](http://www.bcentral.com/resource/articles/harper/115.asp?cobrand=msn)
- ✓ Black-owned businesses are growing significantly in Louisiana, especially in New Orleans, with an **86 percent increase** (companies with paid employees only). (U.S. Census Bureau, March 2001). [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)
- ✓ Baton Rouge is ranked **10<sup>th</sup>** best small metro area for growing businesses. Lafayette is **13<sup>th</sup>** and Shreveport is **48<sup>th</sup>**. Baton Rouge is **3<sup>rd</sup>** for best cities for small business. (Inc. magazine, 2000) [www2.inc.com/search/20849.html](http://www2.inc.com/search/20849.html)
- ✓ Louisiana climbed to 5<sup>th</sup> in the rankings for its increase in health care coverage for children, thanks to the success of the LaCHIP Program (Children's Defense Fund, July 2000). [www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/cdfchip\\_report.pdf](http://www.childrensdefense.org/pdf/cdfchip_report.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana jumped from its traditional rankings of 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> in the EPA's Toxics Release Inventory to **12<sup>th</sup>** in 1999 (last available report) while increasing productivity. The annual survey ranks states based on their amount of toxic chemical releases and other waste



management activities reported by manufacturing facilities. The vast majority of these gains were accomplished through Louisiana's industry-based voluntary Responsible Care Program. [www.epa.gov/tri/tri99/pdr/execsummary.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/tri/tri99/pdr/execsummary.pdf)

- ✓ LaCHIP is recognized as a **national leader** in programs of its type. (Families USA, a national consumer watchdog organization, October 1999) <http://familiesusa.org/>
- ✓ Louisiana is **eighth in the nation** for new manufacturing plants with 68. (Site Selection magazine, 2000) [www.siteselection.com/issues/2001/mar/p152/](http://www.siteselection.com/issues/2001/mar/p152/)
- ✓ Louisiana's ranking for its use of technology in government has **climbed from 44<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>** (Center for Digital Government, 2000).  
[www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/survey.phtml](http://www.centerdigitalgov.com/center/survey.phtml)
- ✓ Through a federal program, New Orleans **cut its infant mortality rate by 38 percent**, and premature births are down nine percent. (U.S. DHHS, study period was 1993 – 2001)
- ✓ Louisiana is **first in dollars spent for historic preservation**. Louisiana spent more than a third of a billion in FY 2000, creating more than 9,000 jobs (National Park Service, 2000).
- ✓ Louisiana was **second in tourism growth** in 2000. The state saw 2.2 million more visitors in 2000 than in 1999, for an increase of 22 percent. (Travel Industry Association of America, 2000).
- ✓ Louisiana is the **most improved state** in the United Way State of Caring Index, which measures the social and economic health of the nation. The index covers areas such as health, education, civic engagement, safety and other quality-of-life areas. Chief area of improvement was public school per pupil expenditure. Louisiana increased K-12 funding to three times the national level (from 1988 to 1998). And Louisiana's support to non-profit groups grew more than 70 percent, almost double the national rate.  
[www.unitedway.org/stateofcaring/state/LA\\_soc.pdf](http://www.unitedway.org/stateofcaring/state/LA_soc.pdf)
- ✓ Louisiana's Department of Social Services was **one of only 11 states** in the country to receive enhanced funding from USDA, Food and Nutrition Services for FFY 2000. This was based on the state's Food Stamp payment error rate of 5.66%--the national average was 8.91%. This low error rate is especially notable since Louisiana ranks 10th in the nation in the amount of food stamp benefits issued. (Center on Budget & Policy Priorities, April 2001) [www.cbpp.org/4-30-01fs2.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/4-30-01fs2.htm)
- ✓ The most recent study undertaken by the Department of Health and Hospitals Office for Addictive Disorders shows that Louisiana continues to meet the goal of keeping illegal rate of retail tobacco sales below its goal of 10 percent, with a rate of 8.5 percent, one of the lowest rates in the nation. (DHH/Office of Addictive Disorders, November 2001)

- ✓ Louisiana got straight A's in the prestigious Bloomberg annual tax survey, which cites assessment differences from state to state and then ranks them for their tax friendliness. (May 2001) [www.bloomberg.com/personal/archives/may\\_2001.html](http://www.bloomberg.com/personal/archives/may_2001.html)
  - A- for overall tax friendliness (8<sup>th</sup> nationally)